



# Waterford School

276 Duck Pond Road  
Waterford, VT 05819  
(802) 748-9393

September 3, 2020

Greetings Waterford School Students and Families,

I write to you today with a sense of hope and caution. This letter will update you on the preparations we have made and our plan for welcoming back our students to school. Whether on site or remote we are very excited to see your children soon!

Over the last two weeks Waterford School staff have been focused on ensuring a healthy and engaging return for students. A typical teacher inservice would include professional development, planning lessons/units, setting up classrooms and communicating with families. This year we have added the additional task of preparing for student return for both on site and remotely following a significant amount of time away from the school building. Some of our objectives during these two weeks of inservice have been:

- Form our Waterford School Team
- Introduce/Understand/Practice COVID Procedures
- Learn how to apply new remote learning tools for onsite and remote learning students.
- Prepare Class Structures to Support All Students
  - Learning Management Systems: Google Classroom and SeeSaw
  - Develop welcome message to students/families
  - Develop landing pages and support structures for Remote Students
- Understanding Vicarious Trauma

One of the consistent pieces of feedback we received from parents and students about their remote learning experience from the spring closure was the need to streamline the number of systems and platforms students needed to navigate. With this feedback in hand teachers have been busy setting up consistent structures to support learning during the time of COVID. In addition we have received training in supporting the social emotional needs of all students and specifically students who are suffering from trauma.

Once school begins our focus for the first six weeks will be the following:

1. Teach and learn new COVID-19 routines based on State guidelines.
2. Support all students' social emotional well being upon transition back to school.

3. Implement structures that support in school and remote learning.
4. Determine student academic readiness, plan to support all students academically.

With these guideposts in mind, the preparation we have done, structures we have put in place and commitment of our Waterford School Staff I am left hopeful for the upcoming school year! The most important missing piece is our students! We look forward to seeing them in person and virtually very soon.

With this hope comes a sense of caution. We still find ourselves living with the reality of COVID 19. This reality will require all of us to be vigilant. The following are expectations we will be enforcing in order to maintain a safe and healthy school community:

- **The first rule of thumb is to keep your children home if they are sick. Please check your child's health before leaving the house including taking their temperature! If it's above 100.4 please keep them home.**
- **Masks** -- All who enter the building and ride a bus must wear a mask  
All staff and students are required to wear facial coverings while in the building, as well as outside where physical distancing cannot be maintained. Not all face coverings offer the same protection OR safety for the wearer. CCSU ranks face covering as below:
  1. Cloth or medical face mask with ear loops
  2. Cloth or medical face mask with ties (not recommended for younger students due to strangulation risk)
  3. Neck Gaiters have been proven to not be an effective form of protection against respiratory droplets and are not allowed for use in school.

Masks may get wet, dirty and otherwise unwearable. Please send students with at least two masks.

- **Health Screening Prior to Entering school** -- All who enter the building will be required to have a health screen that includes a temperature reading. Students who register a temperature of 100.4 or greater will be required to be picked up from school. Adults who register 100.4 or greater will not be allowed in the building.
- **Limiting the number of visitors to the building.** In order to minimize the number of people in the school parents will not be able to enter the building at arrival. *The week of September 8th parents of Pre-K and Kindergarten students may escort them to their classrooms for a brief drop off period.*

Some additional housekeeping notes to be aware of:

### **Busing**

Students will be required to wear a mask when riding the bus. They will be assigned seats based on their grade level with Middle School being seated at the back of the bus and Prek/Kindergarten students being seated at the front of the bus. Members of the same family may be seated together.

### **Arrival Procedure**

*Students being dropped off will be required to get out of their vehicle no earlier than 7:45. Due to COVID procedures we cannot allow for students to be on site without a health screen. Health screens will begin at 7:45.*

Busses will drop students off at the Gym Door. Students will depart the bus from the front of the bus to the back of the bus with younger students departing first.

We will have 3 points of entry for students depending on their teacher.

- Main door - All middle school students
- Side door- Mrs. Stein, Mrs. Brochu, Mrs. Rosa/Noble
- Gym door- Mrs. Lasnier, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Johnk

Students will be socially distanced and lined up in front of each door. Upon entry students will:

1. Have a health screen
2. Sanitize their hands
3. Walk to their classroom/homeroom

### **Tardy Students:**

- Students will have their temperature taken and health screen before entering the building.
- Check in at the office for attendance.

### **Dismissal**

Buses will be boarded in order to leave the school at 1:45. Students will be dismissed from class in the following order based on classrooms:

- 6-8 boarding bus at 1:35
- 4-5 boarding bus at 1:38
- K-3 boarding bus at 1:40
- PreK boarding bus at 1:40

Students will be lined up by teachers according to Bus 1 and Bus 2 students first, then parent pick ups. Walkers will wait at the gym entrance until buses have left.

### **Parent Pickup -- Dismissal Procedure**

Due to bus constraints please note to start the school year parents will need to maintain the dismissal plan previously established. After school plans with friends that require bussing will not be allowed until distancing restrictions are updated.

The center section of the parking lot will remain open for parents to park.

Parents grades 1-8 will wait in the first 5 parking spots by the gym entrance. This will be clearly marked with cones to prevent parking and so parents know where to wait. The Fire Lane is no longer a location parents can congregate while waiting for dismissal as classes will be coming through that area. Please practice social distancing and wear a mask when waiting for your child to be dismissed.

PreK and K parents will meet at the flagpole for pickup.

To limit the number of people at the parent pick area's please have only one person per family in the designated pickup area. If more than one person comes to pick up a student only one should leave the vehicle to go to the pickup area.

### **Bus Schedule**

We have shared the bus schedule with parents. If you have any questions or need to change the bus route please contact Butlers Bus at 626-4712 or call the school at 748-9393.

If you can please arrange for your child to be dropped off and picked up.

### **Meals Update**

Caledonia Central Supervisory Union is pleased to announce its participation in the United States Dept. of Agriculture and VT Child Nutrition Programs re-established Universal Free School Meal Program. All children, ages 18 and under, are able to receive breakfast and lunch school meals, at no cost. The Universal Free School Meal Program is scheduled to run until December 31, 2020 or "until the money runs out."

Please follow these links for the September menus:

- [Breakfast](#)
- [Lunch](#)

We appreciate your support, feedback and commitment to Waterford School.

Respectfully,

Chris Miller  
Principal